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24 February 1981

Worldwide Report

TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

(FOUO 2/81)

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

ANTARCTICA-JAPAN SATELLITE LINK--Yamaguchi (KYODO)--Showa Base, Japan's Antarctic observation base on Ongul Island, will be linked with Japan through maritime satellites (Marisats) as soon as permission to start the new service is granted by the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry. Test communication with Showa Base is being made by radio. KDD officials said use of the Marisats enables voice communication and also reception and transmission of facsimile messages. [Text] [Tokyo DAILY YOMIURI in English 2 Feb 81 p 2]

CSO: 4120

FRANCE

STATUS OF TELSPACE INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS REVIEWED

Paris AIR & COSMOS in French 13 Dec 80 p 43

[Text] Telspace now has 86 ground stations to its credit, including 20 recent completions in Africa. The new station in Gabon, delivered in only four months, entered into service in April 1980. The first Djibouti station was put into service in May 1980. The 13 stations of the national Zaire network (Rezatelsat) were just inaugurated on 23 November 1980. (See AIR ET COSMOS No 836) The Burundi station, recently installed, should be put into service very soon. The Ivory Coast station and that of Guinea should also be inaugurated soon. Finally the four stations of the national Niger network, now under construction, will be put into service in September 1981.

The French group has also just been hired as the contractor for the construction in Bangladesh of a ground station of the standard B Intelsat type. The contract, for 15 million francs, covers the completion of the station, microwave links, etc. Also in 1981 Telspace expects the order for the main station of the national "Telecom 1" station which will be setup at Barcenay-en-Othe.

Telspace has moreover responded to several calls for bids for new stations. In Tunisia for the construction of the first ground station of the country (standard A), at Tunis. In Morocco for the completion of a national network of three stations (with antennas of 11 meters diameter), one of which is stationary at Rabat, and two mobile destined for the territories of the south. The main competitors for these contracts are, as usual, the Japanese NEC, the American Harris, and the Italian STS.

Telspace is also preparing to bid, in time for the deadline set for February 1981, on the stations of the Australian national network project. This ambitious project provides for the completion of five types of ground stations, operating at 12-14 GHz, for semirural telephone, for telephones between large cities, links of the Ministry of Aeronautics and Transport, regional television, and direct television to the public at large.

Telspace furthermore has already modified the equipment of 15 ground stations for links with normal telecommunications "Intelsat 5" satellites, which will be put into service early in 1981. A new contract, of about 40 million francs, is also expected for the expansion of the capacity of the two ground stations of Iraq, previously built by Telspace.

The orders of the French group comprising Thomson-CSF and CIT-Alcatel will thus go from 220 million francs in 1979 to about 280 million francs in 1980. But Telspace foresees a drop in orders next year, and recovery in 1982 with the appearance of new material and the new equipment catalogue.

It will particularly be in 1982, after the experiments with the four prototype stations already ordered from Telspace, that the new series of orders for ground stations for intraenterprise links of the national French "Telecom 1" network should appear. The planned system is about 250 stations, with a unit cost of about 800,000 francs, of which France-Cable et Radio should spread the orders out over five years. The AMRT modulation equipment associated with these stations will be provided by the Thomson-CSF/CIT-Alcatel/SAT group which has just recently been chosen by the General Telecommunications Directorate (DGT).

By 1984, Telspace foresees an increase in its annual orders to about 400 million francs!

Thanks to the large stations of the intelsat type, but also to the appearance of new markets for smaller stations for regional or national networks. Henceforth Telspace will be in a position to study and build ground stations with antennas of 2 to 32 meters diameter, and to supply modular equipment making it possible to adapt it to any kind of satellite. Telspace also proposes the concept and completion of whole networks, delivered on a "turnkey" basis, as in Zaire or Niger.

6108
CSO: 5500

FRANCE

TELEMATICS-GOVERNMENT: CONTROL OF COMMUNICATIONS IS AT STAKE

Directorate of Communications Role

Paris VALEURS ACTUELLES in French 22 Dec 80 pp 16-18

[Article by Francois Lebrette]

[Text] "Telematization": a lively issue.

Mr Thiery's strategy involves a risk: a setback of the Concorde kind.

And a danger: state monopoly over all communications.

Everything begins with a change in the telephone directory. At first glance, the initiative is both logical and clear. The paper directory is costly, the telephone information services are jammed, the number of subscribers will double from now to 1992, increasing from 15 million to 30 million. Therefore, it was necessary to find an alternative; and the electronic directory proposed by the General Directorate of Telecommunications (DGT) is enticing.

It takes only about 10 minutes to learn to work the small keyboard which is similar to that of an electric typewriter and to make the desired information appear on the black and white screen at the cost of one telephone call. The "entries" are multiple: name, street, profession. Over time, all directories of all the departments will be alphabetized and updated every week. Finally, the operation is presented as free of charge: the PTT will replace the old directory with this piece of equipment without an increase in subscription charges.

Fifty inhabitants of Saint-Malo are now testing the system. In 2 years, the 250,000 subscribers of Ille-et-Vilaine will have the system; and all of France will be equipped with it 10 years later. The DGT estimates that for such mass production the unit cost of this electronic directory will not be over 400 1980 francs. Amortization is expected in 8 to 10 years.

However, this worthwhile modernization is not without uncertainties. And the ambitions of Gerard Thery, director of the DGT, are carrying far beyond the directory. What is more he has the means for his ambitions: the DGT has 155,000 employees, about 45 billion francs worth of business in 1980 and over 25 billion in investments. Michel Noir, PTT budget spokesman before the Assembly, explains:

"In its obsession to not miss the boat with respect to mass distribution of electronic terminals, the DGT wishes to be in the forefront of everything. This leads to frenzied activity."

And the launching, alongside the directory, of new services such as long-distance facsimile, the transmission of computer data via the TRANSPAC [expansion unknown] network, the multifunctional home terminal.

Such projects would be impossible without state support. Thery, a man who was able to meet an existing need--the telephone--has succeeded in convincing the government that he was capable of defining still existing needs.

His arguments? Telematization would permit reassignment of PTT personnel displaced by automation of the telephone. What is more, the establishment of a vast national electronic market would lead to the creation of a purely national industry of its components and would place us in a good position on the world market.

For now, this national telematics industry is reduced. The reservation systems of Air France and the SNCF [French National Railroads], and the handling of current accounts in some banks are the most sepctacular developments thereof. And the delivery of 30 million directories will not result in the establishment of a big components industry.

Therefore, it remains to be seen whether the bet made on a "great public" market is justified. For Gerard Thery, there is no doubt about it. An opinion shared by the Nora-Minc report which launched the term "telematics and now by Henri Pigeat, president of the AFP, who says in his report on telematics for the Eighth Plan: "The markets are there." However, a few lines later, he admits: "In the case of residential telematics in particular, demand is, at the outset, heavily determined by supply."

In other words, a bet is being made that a population attracted by these new pieces of equipment will be able to find applications for them so that massive orders and subscriptions will quickly ensue; that the concerned industry will at once develop harmoniously; that, finally, this technological advance will assure industry of a principal place in the world market.

However, in his report on research for the 1981 budget, Jean-Pierre Chevenement has several concerns over such a rosy future. There is little question of his disdaining basic research; nevertheless, socialist deputy Belfort writes:

"For all that, the very sizable increase of the telecommunications technological development budget (of 88 percent, or 2.48 billion) is more a reflection of the financial affluence in which this administration finds itself rather than a reasoned policy decision on the part of the government (...) Expenditures made today in sectors for which we do not know whether or not there is an important potential demand are not of a nature to guarantee the future of the French telecommunications industry."

The DGT, by coming out with products which compete with one another, justifies these concerns.

The Antiope system, which has already been tested, permits the reception of information broadcast by the TDF [French Telebroadcasting Company] on a regular television set equipped with a decoder: meteorology, stock market prices, road obstructions and also the telephone directory, if we take the trouble to have one.

Another system may be able to provide the same service: TELETEL [?telephone telecommunications], which will be installed in Velizy in a few months for 2,500 subscribers. More elaborate than the directory-screen, TELETEL not only permits the passive reception of information but also the ability to talk with the service called.

"The TELETEL user," the DGT explains, "can, for example, reserve his SNCF tickets, check on the status of his bank account, send or receive messages, place orders with catalogue sales companies or with merchants in his district, thanks to the message service, check on the services of small ads offered by the press, etc."

Such a gamut of services makes another product which the DGT is attempting to promote somewhat useless: the "mass distribution facsimile receiver." (TGD). This piece of equipment is still in the prototype stage and indeed in the wood mock-up model phase. However, the General Directorate of Telecommunications is already announcing a market of 10 million home facsimile receivers in 15 years. The TGD will permit the sending of a photocopy to one's correspondent in the field in 3 minutes. Dual usage with the TELETEL "letter box" permitting the subscriber to call up on his screen the messages sent by his correspondents.

Therefore, everything is going along as if the DGT, unsure of the product which will finally have the approval of the public, is striking out in an all directions promotion, even if that means incurring setbacks in some of its innovations.

"The DGT is working in an artistic fog," Michel Noir observes.

A fog which also consists in minimizing the political, economic and social consequences of these innovations to force the adherence of the government first and of the public next.

An example: Thery thinks that the use of the facsimile receiver will cause postal traffic to decrease. However, to cite only this example, a facsimile receiver without legal status can hardly replace business mail. As for private parties, will they tolerate the appearance on their facsimile receivers of the advertising pitches which they are getting in the mail? And themselves paying for the printout paper which is costly.

Generally, the cost of the requested service will soon act in a deterrent manner. The telephone subscriber must already expect to pay the cost of transmitting information which he finds free of charge in his paper directory. And later he will pay by the unit, after the fact. However, he will not perhaps be the only one to pay. Already, when one asks at the keyboard for a list of Saint-Malo hotels (the only "teledirectorized" city), one discovers that some of them have purchased several "pages" of screen to praise their gourmet menus in various languages. At the DGT, they say that this is only a replacement of the few lines inserted in the annual directory.

In a related connection, it is not certain that the telephone directory alone will be enough to ensure the amortization of this terminal, even in 10 years: it would first be necessary to be sure that the equipment would last that long. The DGT is quite careful not to bring up the subject; however, it is obvious that the addition of other subscribers would amortize the terminals more quickly.

Various private directories, or small ad offices, would find it to their advantage to pay a usage fee for the PTT terminal. And in spite of Thery's silence, Michel Noir's position is clear:

"I doubt that we can preserve the single function of the electronic directory. It appears that the DGT is experimenting with a view to a multifunction terminal."

The DGT's ulterior motives are often very visible. When it explains that TELETEL will permit the checking of small ads "offered by the press," or the reserving of an airplane seat "through a travel agency," obviously what is involved are standards: the system will be more profitable for the advertiser if he eliminates the agency and the newspaper, which are useless intermediaries.

Consequently, there is no use pretending that telematic supports will not be in competition with the newspapers, particularly the provincial dailies.

"I do not think the screen is going to eliminate the newspaper, absolutely not," Thery says forcefully.

However, he could take away its means of living by depriving it of its advertising revenues. In this sector, theoretically no provision has been made; but "PARISCOP" [expansion unknown] which is to participate in the Velizy experiment frankly acknowledges that advertising is necessary to it:

"The screen will be divided in two, between information and advertising."

The DGT is already proposing to daily newspapers long-distance printing by facsimile; it envisages the transmission of televised images through its own satellites, "TELECOM," and, in the ground, through optical fibers. In prospect: a state monopoly unifying all the means of communication, mandatory channeling of all information. That brings us back to Thery's admission:

"Whoever controls the means of telematics will control the use of these means."

In his thinking, the strategy he is advocating must permit the defense of French culture. By controlling the network which will have become necessary, he could in fact prohibit access to it by any information or entertainment program which did not meet the standards. But who will set these standards?

Electronic Directory's Potential

Paris LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR in French 22 Dec 80 pp 56-57

[Article by Gerard Bonnot]

[Text] France is ready to do anything to sell its electronic directory to the Americans. Does that include imperiling its provincial newspapers? Up in the mountains, about 150 kilometers from Los Angeles, Big Bear Lake is a prosperous tourist resort. In the winter, there is skiing; in the summer, boating and fishing. At Big Bear Lake an effort is being made to preserve remembrance of the Indians and prospectors in the conquest of the West.

On a particular day, however, it was the future which was the topic for discussion. Dignitaries from the small community, with a total of 15,000 inhabitants, hoteliers, businessmen, merchandisers, and forestry experts had assembled in the town hall to attend the presentation of a French product which is not yet to be found in the United States: the electronic telephone directory.

These big, sturdy and colorfully dressed individuals, with loud voices and suntanned complexions, were seated docilely before individual terminals which were made available to them. They had pecked away conscientiously at the keyboard. With varying degrees of success. Delighted when they succeeded in having their name, company name, services offered and prices charged show up on the screen. Puzzled when, following an incorrect operation, the machine returned them to the starting position. In respectable English, the men responsible for the project, technicians and publicity men, had described all the advantages of the system to them. They had drunk champagne. Finally, the question period arrived. The president of the chamber of commerce raises his hand: "You said that this is an advance, and we would like to believe you. However, first, how much is that going to cost us?"

When the French speak about telematics, a word they invented, the Americans answer business. The business of communications. There is more than a nuance of language, a difference in mentality.

Because the French have understood that the marriage of the computer and the telephone could change the realtionships between men, they wish forthwith to draw up plans for the future. The government alerts the people, rounds up the industrialists, tells them about their task, mobilizes citizens. Whether they want it to be or not, the directory will be electronic. The Americans, who have been the pioneers of the computer and telephone, have the opposite attitude.

Before committing themselves, they wait until the new technologies have been tested. They content themsleves with breaking up traditional monopolies, positions acquired. That is what they call "deregulation." Because they think in terms of service and they are convinced that only the user is capable of evaluating a service properly; i.e., very exactly, the price they are willing to pay. They depend upon freedom of the marketplace to trace the profile of tomorrow's society.

Why did the Office of Advertising, the branch of the Havas Agency which handles publicity for the telephone directory, choose Big Bear Lake for its demonstration? In the first place because it had only 10,000 subscribers. The computer programs

of the electronic directory are still being broken in and, for the moment, cannot respond to requests for too great a number of subscribers. But also, and above all, because the Office of Advertising needed an American partner for the telephone lines. The Continental Telephone Company of California, which services the region, is of modest size. Up against the gigantic Bell System, which controls over 70 percent of the telephone communications in the United States, it was delighted to innovate and, if the experiment scuceeded, to offer its customers a supplementary benefit.

'Informational Advertising'

What benefit? Hitting the keyboard takes a little longer than consultation of a printed page. In France, where telematics is a national game and the telephone a public service, the electronic directory when in place will offer the benefit of permitting the user, through his personal terminal, of having direct access to the numbers of all subscribers in the country. However, the inhabitants of Big Bear Lake still will not be able to obtain the number of a correspondent in the city of Los Angeles, which is serviced by another company.

That leaves publicity. For Claude Marin, who heads the Office of Advertising, "The change from the printed page to the electronic page will transform the profession." On paper, a list of subscribers is nothing but a series of names. In a computer memory, one can select data, manipulate it, rearrange it in all imaginable manners. The electronic dierctory, for example, can upon request supply the names of all craftsmen engaging in such and such specialty, or a list of all the sellers of such and such brand of a mass consumption product. If the subscriber wishes, he can, for a fee, add to his name and address: the prices he charges, directions on how to get to his establishment easily. Transportation companies can post their schedules, theaters their programs.

For the inhabitants of Big Bear Lake, who make their living from services, this is an appreciable benefit. So long as the electronic directory is kept up to date. The merchant who has decided to have a sale can announce it to the public, real estate agents can present a catalogue of houses for rent or sale which they have available. This electronic advertising will also have the advantage of being unobtrusive, since only those who make a request via their keyboards will cause it to appear on their screens.

Because this kind of informational advertising unquestionably responds to a need, it is at present principally handled by the local print media. Therefore, the advent of the electronic directory threatens to deliver a harsh blow to this print media by brutally depriving it of part of its revenues. For the Americans, that is not an objection. Their philosophy is that the best wins. When the directors of newspapers across the Atlantic learned that they would perforce be beaten by the radio, which had the means of announcing the news before them, they did not raise a fuss. They bought into radio stations. Among providers of services, there is always a way of reaching an understanding. But in France, a country of privileges and private perserves, that becomes an affair of state.

The French Press Federation has just brought this to the attention of the National Commission on Computer Information and Freedoms, which is officially responsible for defending citizens against any abusive use of the computer. Rightly, the complaint is legitimate. The electronic directory developed by the General Directorate of Telecommunications arises out of the public service; its installation will be

paid for one way or another by the taxpayers. If the state permits it to engage in competition by means of advertising with newspapers which are private enterprises, it is absuing its power. But if the Commission prohibits all advertising in the directory, as it is being asked to do by representatives of the press, if it is reduced to being nothing more than a list of names and telephone numbers, what argument would be left to attract the inhabitants of Big Bear Lake? Or any other customer outside France?

The Handicap of the Japanese

France did not enter the telematics sector on an impulse. In the electronic revolution which is in the process of drastically changing the balance of power within the industrial world, France noted that in many sectors it had fallen behind, sometimes irremediably. On the other hand, it has a strong point: the transmission networks, as it was forced to invest massively in advanced technologies to renovate telephone equipment which for too long had been neglected. Therefore, France decided to upgrade these networks by linking them to information terminals. Through mass production, at a good price for the public at large, it feels that this kind of terminal has a chance, at least in this sector, of winning a privileged position. From that came the idea of the electronic directory.

Admirable reasoning which caused the great American economic magazine, FORTUNE, to note in an article published this summer, "Descartes would have loved it." And, in fact, at the International Salon of Telecommunications Industries, Intelcom 80, which was held in Los Angeles in November, we were able to observe that French industries in this sector were from 18 months to 2 years ahead of their most direct competitors, the Americans and even the Japanese, who are handicapped by difficulties with their script.

However, it is not enough to be right to earn money. Nor even to build better machines. One must be able to prove that these machines are useful. Telematics will not really begin to live and bring in revenues until the presidents of chambers of commerce of all the small cities in the United States, who only know the law of the marketplace, are convinced that they cannot do without it.

Descartes was not a businessman. The electronic directory, however attractive its principle may be, is not an end in itself. What counts is the totality of services which the terminal can provide, once installed. If the French, out of legal scruples, in an excess of formalism, refuse to understand this, they are incurring the risk of paying dearly for their illusions.

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CSO: 5500

FRANCE

ATTITUDE TOWARD INFORMATION FLOW, INDUSTRIAL OBJECTIVES

Paris FUTURIBLES in French No 39, Dec 80 pp 50-56

[Article by Jean-Pierre Chamoux, president of the Association for Law and Data Processing (l'Association Droit et Informatique): "Information Without Borders"]

[Excerpts] A Triple Stake

In information flows, the amount transmitted by nonphysical means is still very small, especially if one considers the international networks as a whole. But the end of this century is certain to see this situation inverted. And the stake in the game of the future, therefore, is certain to be international telecommunications. It is a cultural stake, because control of the network will in large measure ensure control of the message; it is an industrial stake, because control of the network will involve control of the wide range of connectable equipment, which represents a vast market; and lastly, it is an economic stake, because, by orienting the choice of facilities, direct influence can be brought to bear on the location of international decision-making centers and of tertiary activities, which are labor-intensive.

I find it unforeseeable that the democratic countries of Europe will institute coercive or police methods to prevent the crossing of borders. The antenna we put on our roof tomorrow to receive televised broadcasts from a satellite will thus be able to receive a multitude of programs emanating from various countries. We cannot hope, therefore, to escape the mechanisms of the marketplace in this sensitive area of telecasting, which is currently the prerogative of domestic companies because of the physical constraints of geography. The true televisual objective of tomorrow will therefore be to give domestic productions a chance to effectively penetrate national boundaries. They will then have to compete with high-quality American productions, the impact and professionalism of which is known. This is not an impossible task, but it demands undertaking now if we are to be in a position tomorrow to respond to the call of the international market, especially in Europe. The idea must be a good one, since it has already been taken up by the partners in the Anglo-Swiss private television satellite project TELESAT.[1]

1) cf. LA CORRESPONDANCE DE LA PRESSE 4 Nov 1980 pp 5,6; see also the daily newspaper LA SUISSE 14 May 1980.

Some Objectives for France

What might our objectives be in the worldwide concert? We must distinguish between two sets of objectives, one having to do with technological dominance of the new infrastructures, and the other with dominance of the information flows themselves. Regarding first the infrastructures, the two principal vehicles are submarine cables and telecommunications satellites. The new submarine cables have a traffic handling capacity comparable to that of satellite facilities, and, what is not generally known is that the total traffic being handled by these cables has followed an evolution paralleling that of satellite facilities. This evolution has surprised many futurologists, but it is a fact. French industry holds a respectable position in the fabrication and laying of international cables, and it has been backed by an intelligent and discreet government policy that has succeeded in guaranteeing it some very substantial outlets. There are four countries in the world that produce and lay submarine cables: the United States, England, Japan and France. This industrial stake is highly significant, and it entails a major research effort.

Paralleling it is another industrial stake in telecommunications satellites and in television broadcast satellites, which has been widely discussed lately, in that--still from the infrastructures standpoint--it will also be important to dominate the fabrication and sale of terminal equipments. It appears to me that nations are going to have to draw up standards in this regard and to see to it that these standards are internationalized and adhered to by all equipment manufacturers. Once this is done, one can venture to control the networks by way of their extremities; that is, to sell a large number of small intelligent data-processing terminals, all of which will be compatible with the networks. This venture is to some extent the one proposed by the Nora-Minc report[2] on the computerization of society. It was based on a seemingly realistic projection of a very high annual growth rate in this sector. It is my belief that industrial positions during the 1980's will be largely a function of the choices that will have been made in this regard. There are still virgin markets, like that of international marketing procedures--a market that calls for a standardization effort, a regulatory effort, and intelligent industrial backing.

All these infrastructures will facilitate the penetration of borders and are therefore sources of major concern. It will not be sufficient to control the infrastructures alone; international information flows will also have to be controlled. Considered for the first time in connection with laws on data processing and freedoms, control of transnational information flows has frequently been addressed solely from the standpoint of juridical norms. In the Council of Europe, for example, there were long discussions on ways to standardize the protection of citizens' rights among countries whose national legislations on freedoms might differ. We showed, however, that certain risks of upsetting socioeconomic balances do indeed exist, particularly as between the United States and the rest of the world. Other interesting findings were presented in this sense, particularly by the Swedish studies on the vulnerability of societies and

2) Nora, Simon and Minc, Alain: "L'informatisation de la societe" [The Computerization of Society], Paris, la Documentation Francaise, 1978.

by the now highly regarded Canadian studies on employment and economic self-sufficiency in Canada. The free circulation of information throughout the world, and particularly the circulation of economic and financial data, does actually facilitate the concentration of economic power, especially as regards services and industries that are sensitive to the international division of labor. Economic concentration and geographic concentration therefore go hand in hand initially with the growth of transnational flows.

Is this, then, sufficient to warrant a condemnation of the current situation and the institution of a system for controlling these flows? A control of international data flows is of course contemplatable, much the same as the controls on monetary flows and customs controls. But I question whether an administrative control on commercial information flows could be exercised for long without an insidious extension of such control to other flows carried on the same channels. I might cite statistical data, press information and even private correspondence.

In sum, direct control of information flows would be a difficult thing to make operative, besides which, it might work more to the detriment of the one exercising it than would the system of total freedom that now prevails. On the other hand, the need remains to plan now to restore the balances threatened by the effect of concentration that accompanies the current laissez-faire in international communications.

Information is power; no city can remain a capital, no country can be a power, if they are not kept irrigated by the deluge of information needed to exercise the functions of economic command. Cutting off the flow of information must therefore be avoided.

I remain convinced, however, that international regulation of information exchange is possible. It must be flexible and discreet, and must not interfere with the mechanisms of the marketplace. This was the direction taken by the governments of France and Germany when they decided individually to back the development of scientific and technical data banks with their respective national plans. But against economic and multinational mechanisms, states cannot intervene directly in the economic circuit, since , if they do, they will find themselves in an inferior position with respect to the giant commercial firms. In the search for the balance of power that is inherent in their mission, the states of Europe have a role to play in the field of communications: They must obtain a more equitable share of the infrastructures, which will then contribute to their control of transnational flows.

Based on the principles we have proposed, this international regulation is possible, but it requires the political will to obtain it.

9399
CSO: 5500

FRANCE

BRIEFS

PSF PARIS BROADCASTS--Former television newscaster Maurice Seveno will initiate broadcasts this month over Canal 75 [Station 75]. Broadcasting 'round the clock,' this "daily Ile-de-France radio news broadcast" will aim at providing a counter-view to the official news broadcast by Radio France, judged to be tendentious by the PSF. Supporters have chipped in 600,000 francs to get the station started. [Text] [Paris VALEURS ACTUELLES in French 2 Feb 81 p 15]

MEMORY BANK WIPEOUT--According to civil defense experts, a high-power [nuclear] explosion would probably wipe out nearly all the computer memory banks in the French telecommunications system. A plan to "harden" the system, following Norway's example, is being studied. Military communications are already completely independent, being based on an integrated automatic system. [Text] [Paris VALEURS ACTUELLES in French 2 Feb 81 p 15]

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